

REMARKS

Claims 3–18 are pending in this application, of which Claims 3 and 11 are independent. Claims 3–18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,273,905 (Muller). In particular, rejection is apparently based in part on the Examiner's understanding that the input reservoir 116 shown in Muller's FIGS. 18 and 20 is a slide cavity. Muller's input reservoir 116 is not a slide cavity because it is not a cavity into which a microscope slide is inserted, as recited in Applicants' Claims 3 and 11.

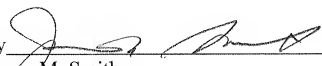
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

HAMILTON, BROOK, SMITH & REYNOLDS, P.C.

By 
James M. Smith
Registration No. 28,043
Telephone: (978) 341-0036
Facsimile: (978) 341-0136

Concord, MA 01742-9133

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